

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
mechanism for mounting a removable storage medium  
adapter in which a removable storage medium is  
5 mounted, the storage medium mounting/dismounting  
mechanism comprising:

automatic mounting/dismounting means for  
automatically ejecting selectively the storage medium  
from the storage medium adapter, and for  
10 automatically mounting the storage medium at the  
storage medium adapter, in a state in which the  
storage medium adapter is mounted.

2. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
15 mechanism according to claim 1 comprising manual  
ejecting means for being able to manually eject the  
storage medium adapter and a lock member locking the  
manual ejecting means, wherein, during an access to  
the storage medium, the manual ejecting means is  
20 locked by the lock member, and the storage medium  
adapter is in a state of being impossible to be  
ejected.

3. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
25 mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the lock  
member works with the operation in which the storage  
medium is automatically ejected selectively from the

storage medium adapter by the automatic mounting/dismounting means, and locks the manual ejecting means or cancels the locking.

5           4. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism for mounting a removable storage medium adapter in which a removable storage medium is mounted, the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism comprising:

10           automatic mounting/dismounting means for automatically ejecting selectively the storage medium from the storage medium adapter, and for automatically mounting the storage medium at the storage medium adapter, in a state in which the  
15           storage medium adapter is mounted, and for locking the storage medium adapter at the time of the automatic ejection or at the time of the automatic mounting.

20           5. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism according to claim 4 comprising pressure means for holding by sandwiching and pressing the storage medium adapter, wherein the pressure means works with the operation in which the storage medium  
25           is automatically ejected from the storage medium adapter by the automatic mounting/dismounting means, and sandwiches and presses the storage medium adapter

or cancels the holding by sandwiching.

6. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
mechanism for mounting a removable storage medium  
5 adapter in which a removable storage medium is  
mounted, the storage medium mounting/dismounting  
mechanism comprising:

adapter sensing means for sensing the  
presence/absence of mounting of the storage medium  
10 adapter; and

automatic mounting/dismounting means for  
automatically ejecting selectively the storage medium  
from the storage medium adapter, and for  
automatically mounting the storage medium at the  
15 storage medium adapter after the mounting of the  
storage medium adapter is sensed by the adapter  
sensing means.

7. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
20 mechanism according to claim 6 comprising medium  
sensing means for sensing the presence/absence of  
mounting of the storage medium with respect to the  
storage medium adapter, wherein the automatic  
mounting/dismounting means automatically ejects  
25 selectively the storage medium from the storage  
medium adapter after the mounting of the storage  
medium with respect to the storage medium adapter is

sensed by the medium sensing means.

8. An information processing apparatus which comprises the storage medium mounting/dismounting  
5 mechanism according to one of claims 1 to 7, the information processing apparatus comprising:

control means for carrying out an electric power supply for a storage medium mounted at the storage medium adapter which is mounted at the  
10 storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism or the card type storage medium mounted at the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism, and for carrying out writing and reading of data on and from the storage medium or the card type storage medium.

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9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the control means makes the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism carry out the automatic ejecting operation when an  
20 instruction in which the storage medium is automatically ejected from the storage medium adapter mounted at the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism or an instruction in which the card type storage medium is automatically ejected from the  
25 storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism is externally inputted, and makes the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism carry out the

automatic mounting operation when an insertion of the storage medium into the storage medium adapter mounted at the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism or an insertion of the card type storage medium into the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism is sensed.

10. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism comprising:

10 mounting means for mounting a removable storage medium adapter in which a removable storage medium is mounted; and

ejecting means for selectively ejecting one or both of the storage medium and the storage medium adapter in a state in which the storage medium adapter is mounted at the mounting means.

11. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism according to claim 10 comprising driving means for driving the ejecting means, wherein the ejecting means switches an ejecting operation of the storage medium and an ejecting operation of the storage medium adapter in accordance with a driving force in the forward direction and a driving force in the backward direction generated by the driving means.

12. A storage medium mounting/dismounting

mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the ejecting means has a first ejecting member which pulls and ejects the storage medium from the storage medium adapter when the forward direction driving force is  
5 generated by the driving means, and has a second ejecting member which pulls and ejects the storage medium adapter from the mounting means when the backward direction driving force is generated by the driving means.

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13. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism according to claim 10 comprising:

energizing means for applying energizing force in a direction opposite to the ejecting direction  
15 with respect to the storage medium adapter when the storage medium is selectively ejected by the ejecting means from the storage medium adapter mounted at the mounting means.

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14. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the energizing means works with the operation in which the storage medium adapter is selectively ejected from the mounting means by the ejecting means, and  
25 cancels the energizing force.

15. A storage medium mounting/dismounting

mechanism according to claim 13, wherein, in the energizing means, the energizing force does not act in a state in which the storage medium adapter is mounted at the mounting means.

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16. A storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the ejecting means serves as a mounting function which guides the storage medium adapter to the inserting direction and  
10 mounts the storage medium adapter at the mounting means in accordance with an inserting operation of the storage medium adapter into the mounting means.

17. A storage medium mounting/dismounting  
15 mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the ejecting means serves as a mounting function which guides the storage medium to the inserting direction and mounts the storage medium at the storage medium adapter in accordance with an inserting operation of the storage  
20 medium into the storage medium adapter mounted at the mounting means.

18. An information processing apparatus on which the storage medium mounting/dismounting  
25 mechanism according to one of claims 10 to 17 is mounted, wherein the storage medium mounting/dismounting mechanism has mounting means at

which a storage medium adapter mounting a storage medium so as to be mountable/dismountable is mounted so as to be mountable/dismountable; ejecting means for selectively ejecting one or both of the storage  
5 medium and the storage medium adapter in a state in which the storage medium adapter is mounted at the mounting means; driving means for driving the ejecting means; and energizing means for applying energizing force in a direction opposite to the  
10 ejecting direction with respect to the storage medium adapter when the storage medium is ejected from the storage medium adapter mounted at the mounting means.